REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12 and 16 remain pending in the application.

As an initial matter, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the interview he conducted with Applicant's representative on January 27, 2009. During the interview, the Kimura et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 4,816,909) cited in the Office Action was discussed. Applicant's representative argued that Kimura et al. does not overcome the deficiencies of Kanno et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,583,566) and Nishikori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,627,584) concerning the timing controllers recited in independent claims 1, 7 and 16. Although no specific agreement was reached during the interview, the Examiner agreed to carefully consider Applicant's written arguments.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-10, 12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanno et al. in view of Nishikori et al. and Kimura et al.

Applicant's claim 1 recites an electronic endoscope system having an image-signal processing unit and a monitor. The electronic endoscope system includes, inter alia, a scene-changing system that changes a scene displayed on the monitor between an endoscope-image-display scene and a patient-data-list-display scene, and a timing controller. The timing controller outputs a first series of clock pulses having a first frequency when the endoscope-image-display scene is displayed on the monitor, and outputs a second series of clock pulses having a second frequency when the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on the monitor. The second frequency is higher than the first frequency in order to enable the image-signal processing unit to process a larger number of image-pixel signals when the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on the monitor.

Applicant's claim 7 recites an electronic endoscope system that displays an endoscope-image on a monitor. The electronic endoscope system includes, inter alia, a scene-changing system that changes a scene displayed on the monitor between a first display mode and a second display mode. The second display mode is a patient-data-list-display scene. The electronic endoscope system also includes a timing controller. The timing controller outputs a first series of clock pulses having a first frequency when an endoscope-image-display scene is displayed on the monitor, and outputs a second series of clock pulses having a second frequency when the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on the monitor. The second frequency is higher than the first frequency in order to enable an image-signal processing unit to process a larger number of image-pixel signals when the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on the monitor.

Applicant's claim 16 recites an image-signal processing unit which outputs endoscope-image-display signal and patient-data-list-display signals to a monitor. The image-signal processing unit includes, inter alia, a processing system that processes signal to be outputted to the monitor, and a timing controller. The timing controller outputs a first series of clock pulses having a first frequency when an endoscope-image-display signal is outputted to the monitor, and outputs a second series of clock pulses having a second frequency when a patient-data-list-display signal is outputted to the monitor. The second frequency is higher than the first frequency in order to enable the processing system to process a larger number of image-pixel signals when the patient-data-list-display signal is outputted to the monitor.

Kanno et al. discloses an image filing system 241 which includes a host computer 208 and a computer display 209. See, e.g., Figure 25 and col. 20, lines 41-50 of Kanno et al. Figure 32 of Kanno et al. illustrates a main menu which is displayed on the computer display 209.

Figure 32 shows that menu options include, inter alia, image search and patient data management.

Nishikori et al. discloses an endoscope system 1 in which a list of ID numbers are displayed on a screen of an operation computer 3, and an endoscope image is displayed on a separate monitor 13. See, e.g., Figures 3 and 15A – 15J, and col. 7, lines 16-30, col. 10, lines 52-54 and col. 18, line 65 – col. 19, line 23 of Nishikori et al.

In the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that Kanno et al. does not disclose the specifics of the clock signals recited in claims 1, 7 and 16. However, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to add clock pulses as taught by Kimura et al. in order to obtain an apparatus that produces high quality video images at a lower operating procedure complexity. Applicant respectfully submits that the inventions recited in independent claims 1, 7 and 16 are not obvious in view of the combined teachings of Kanno et al., Nishikori et al. and Kimura et al.

Applicant submits that the timing controllers recited in Applicant's claims 1, 7 and 16 are not disclosed by Kanno et al. and Nishikori et al., and the Examiner has not asserted otherwise. Rather, the Examiner cites Kimura et al. for these features. Kimura et al. discloses a video endoscope system 1 which includes an electronic endoscope 11 having a solid state imaging device 13, an endoscope controlling unit 21, and a monitor 29. See, e.g., Fig. 1 and col. 4, lines 7-22 of Kimura et al. The endoscope controlling unit 21 includes driving circuits 23A-23C which output driving signals having different frequencies (10 MHz, 5 MHz and 2 MHz). See, e.g., Fig. 1 and col. 4, lines 21-36 of Kimura et al. The driving signals are selectively output to the solid state imaging device 13 through a switch 22. See, e.g., Fig. 1 and col. 4, lines 36-47 of Kimura et al.

Applicant respectfully submits that Kimura's endoscope controlling unit 21 does not output a first driving signal having a first frequency **when an endoscope-image-display scene** is displayed on the monitor 29, and output a second driving signal having a second frequency higher than the first frequency **when a patient-data-list-display scene** is displayed on the monitor 29. In this regard, Applicant submits that **there is no relationship between a driving circuit 23A-23C which is selected, and a scene which is displayed on the monitor 29**. Rather, Kimura et al. discloses that the switch 22 selects a driving circuit 23A-23C based on the type of solid stage imaging device 13 which is used in the electronic endoscope 11. Specifically, if the solid stage imaging device 13 has 100,000 pixels, then driving circuit 23A is selected; if the solid stage imaging device 13 has 50,000 pixels, then driving circuit 23B is selected; and if the solid stage imaging device 13 has 20,000 pixels, then driving circuit 23C is selected. See, e.g., col. 4, lines 30-36, and col. 4, line 55 to col. 5, line 24 of Kimura et al.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that the combined teachings of Kanno et al, Nishikori et al., and Kimura et al. fails to disclose or suggest an electronic endoscope system which includes a timing controller that outputs a first series of clock pulses having a first frequency when an endoscope-image-display scene is displayed on a monitor, and outputs a second series of clock pulses having a second frequency when a patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on the monitor, where the second frequency is higher than the first frequency in order to enable an image-signal processing unit to process a larger number of image-pixel signals when the patient-data-list-display scene is displayed on the monitor, as recited in Applicant's claims 1 and 7.

Similarly, Applicant further submits that the combined teachings of Kanno et al, Nishikori et al., and Kimura et al. also fails to disclose or suggest an image-signal processing

unit which includes a timing controller that outputs a first series of clock pulses having a first frequency when an endoscope-image-display signal is outputted to a monitor, and outputs a second series of clock pulses having a second frequency when a patient-data-list-display signal is outputted to the monitor, where the second frequency is higher than the first frequency in order to enable a processing system to process a larger number of image-pixel signals when the patient-data-list-display signal is outputted to the monitor, as recited in Applicant's claim 16.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that the inventions recited in Applicant's independent claims 1, 7 and 16 are not obvious in view of Kanno et al, Nishikori et al., and Kimura et al., and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections and allow independent claims 1, 7 and 16, as well as dependent claims 2-4, 6, 8-10 and 12.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

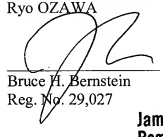
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and believed to be appropriate. Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believes that he has done so.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Ryo OZAWA



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

James K. Moore, Jr.
Reg. No. 56,272

February 4, 2009
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191